

# Thinking with the hand

## Master course, MSc1 - MSc2 / Stephan Zimmerli

### USI / Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio / SP 2026

Meta-languages / Analogue representation:

Interrogating the role of hand-drawing in architectural project methodology / Developing manual thought processes and their specific qualities, through the practice of drawing, the production of artefacts, and a reflection on analogue project-making methods.

## Selected bibliography

### Chapter I: Friction, from resistance to resilience & antifragility

#### On embodied thinking & Architecture

- PALLASMAA, Juhani (2009). *The Thinking Hand, Existential and Embodied Wisdom In Architecture*. New York: Wiley publishers.
- FOCILLON Henri (1934). "Éloge de la main", in *Vie des formes*, suivi de *Éloge de la main*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France (1943). 7th edition, 1981, 131 pages, pp. 101-128 / English version: "In Praise of Hands", in *The Life of Forms in Art*, p.45. New York: ed. Wittenborn, Schultz (1948) / reissue: Parkstone Press Ltd. (2022).

#### On craftsmanship, biology & the mind-hand relationship

- SENNETT, Richard (2008). *The Craftsman*. Cambridge: Yale University Press / french edition: *Ce que sait la main (la culture de l'artisanat)*. Paris: ed. Albin Michel (2020).
- INGOLD, Tim (2013). *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture*. Abingdon-on-Thames: Routledge.
- LEADER Darian (2016). *Hands: What We Do With Them - and Why*. London; Hamish Hamilton.
- SIGAUT, François (2012). *Comment Homo Devint Faber*. Paris: Biblis / CNRS éditions.

#### On resilience, anti-fragility

- TALEB, Nassim Nicholas (2012). *Antifragile - Things that gain from disorder*. London: Penguin books.
- BRONNER, Gerald (2021). *Apocalypse cognitive*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.

#### On architectural drawing

- BELARDI, Paolo (2014). *Why Architects Still Draw*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press 2014.
- COOK, Peter (2014). *Drawing, The Motive Force of Architecture*. New York: Wiley publishers.
- FRASER, Iain, HENMI, Rod (1993). *Envisioning Architecture: An Analysis of Drawing*, New York: Wiley publishers.
- PEREZ-GOMEZ, Alberto (1982). "Architecture As Drawing", in *JAE vol.36 N°2*. New York: Wiley-Blackwell publishing / Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.
- THOMAS, Helen (2018). *Drawing Architecture*. London: Phaidon.

### **Chapter 2: On mental images, focus, skill**

- PALLASMAA, Juhani (2011). *The Embodied Image: Imagination and Imagery in Architecture*. New York: Wiley publishers.
- DERRIDA, Jacques (1991). "A Dessen, Le Dessin". Paris: Franciscopolis éditions (2013).
- DABADIE-FABREGUETTES, Christine, KITO, Claire (2013). "Dialogues de l'encre et du pinceau". Paris: You Feng ed.
- RENGADE, Benoît, TANAKA, Shingai (2006), *Sho, Calligraphes de Kyoto*. ed. Centon.

### **Chapter 3: On error, chance, imprecision, intuition**

- HUGHES, Francesca (2014) *The Architecture of Error (Matter, Measure and the Misadventures of Precision)*. Cambridge MA: MIT Press.
- LENTS, Nathan H. (2018) *Human Errors - A panorama of our Glitches, From Pointless Bones to Broken Genes*. London: W&N, Orion publishing.
- SANDSTRÖM, Sigrid, editor (2020). *Material Matters, Painting and its Materialities*, Stockholm: Art and Theory Publishing.
- ALANDETE, Christian, DANIEL, Hugo, KARMITZ, Marin, & al. (2020). *Giacometti / Beckett – Rater encore, rater mieux*. Paris: Fondation Giacometti-Institut & Lyon: FAGE éditions.

### **Chapter 4: On tactility & the haptic realm**

- PALLASMAA, Juhani (2012). *The Eyes of The Skin (Architecture and the senses)*. New York: ed. Wiley.
- HOLL, Steven (2006). "The Haptic Realm" in *Questions Of Perception, Phenomenology of Architecture*, by HOLL, Steven, PALLASMAA, Juhani, PEREZ-GOMEZ, Alberto. San Francisco: William Stout Publishers.

### **Chapter 5: On time, speed, slowness**

- ROSA, Hartmut (2021). *Remède à l'accélération - impression d'un voyage en Chine et autres textes sur la résonance*. Paris: ed. Flammarion Champs Essais.
- WILLIAMS, Tod, TSIEN, Billie (2019), "On Slowness", in 2G. Barcelona: ed. Gustavo Gilli.
- KUNDERA, Milan (1995), *La Lenteur*. Paris: Gallimard / english edition: *Slowness*. New York: Harper Perennial ed. (1996)
- PAQUOT, Thierry (2021). "Dromologie 01—La vitesse c'est l'état d'urgence", in "Cahiers Paul Virilio". Paris: Eterotopia editions.
- CHABOT, Pascal (2021). *Avoir le Temps, Essai de Chronosophie*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France.

### **Chapter 6: On presence, phenomenology & perception**

- BENJAMIN, Walter (1935), *The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction*. London: Penguin Books 2008 / *L'œuvre d'art à l'époque de sa reproductibilité technique*, Paris: éditions Allia (2012).
- MERLEAU-PONTY, Maurice (1960). *L'Œil et l'Esprit*. Paris: Gallimard / italian edition: *L'occhio e lo Spirito*. Milano: SE editore (1989).
- MERLEAU-PONTY, Maurice (1945). *Phénoménologie de la perception*. Paris: Gallimard / italian edition: *Fenomenologia della Percezione*. Milano: Bompiani ed. (2003).
- BERGER, John. *Berger on Drawing*. Ireland: Occasional Press (2007).
- WÖLFFLIN, Heinrich (1886). "Prolegomena zu einer Psychologie der Architektur". Zürich: EOD / english version: "Prolegomenon to a Psychology of Architecture" in *Empathy, Form and Space*. Santa Monica, CA: Getty Publishing Programs / University of Chicago Press (1994).
- SOTTASS, Ettore. "Disegno Magico", in *Per qualcuno può essere lo spazio*. Milano: Piccola Biblioteca Adelphi (2017).
- GALLESE, Vittorio, MORELLI (2024). *Cosa significa essere umani? - corpo, cervello e relazione per vivere nel presente*. Milano: Raffaello Cortina Editore..